

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1062

By Bailey

A RESOLUTION to urge Congress to form a bipartisan coalition to encourage and petition the President of the United States of America to grant full amnesty to those incarcerated for alleged war crimes committed while fighting for our country during the wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Syria.

WHEREAS, the United States recently withdrew U.S. troops from Afghanistan, ending the longest war in American history, which cost the lives of approximately 2,300 soldiers and resulted in over 20,000 service members suffering debilitating and devastating injuries; and

WHEREAS, these gallant soldiers were faced with unreasonable and unworkable "rules of engagement" put in place for political purposes, which in many cases put our troops in a position of having to decide whether to defend themselves, even though it might have meant prosecution and unjust prison sentences for simply doing their jobs as soldiers; and

WHEREAS, in March 2020, the United States freed approximately 5,000 Taliban prisoners, in spite of their hostile actions against Americans and coalition personnel; and

WHEREAS, many convicted terrorists, in spite of their hostile actions against Americans, both military and civilian, have likewise been released from their imprisonment at the Guantanamo Bay Detention Facility; and

WHEREAS, on December 23, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt tendered a Christmas amnesty to approximately 1,500 people convicted of violating the Espionage Act during World War I; and

WHEREAS, on December 24, 1947, President Harry Truman gave pardon to 1,523 World War II convicted draft evaders who had completed or were serving prison terms; and

WHEREAS, on January 21, 1977, President Jimmy Carter granted unconditional pardon to hundreds of thousands of draft dodgers who evaded military service in the Vietnam War era; and

WHEREAS, there exists ample historical precedence for the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States to issue full and complete pardons or commutations for all persons who are awaiting court martial for crimes alleged to have been committed in the "fog of war" in either Afghanistan, Iraq, or Syria, or who have been convicted of the same and are currently incarcerated based on such conviction; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby urge Congress to form a bipartisan coalition to encourage and petition the President of the United States of America to grant full amnesty to those incarcerated for alleged war crimes while fighting for our country during the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, and each member of the Tennessee Congressional delegation.